

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ'S DRINKING WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM **Moves to Grant Parish**

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BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recently selected Grant Parish as the next stop for its drinking water protection campaign. "Protect Drinking Water One Drop at a Time" is the slogan for the program that is aimed at increasing the public's awareness and participation in protecting the area's drinking water.

The campaign will officially kickoff with the Grant Parish community meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 705 Second Street, Dry Prong. An Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grant Parish Library Headquarters, 300 Main St., Colfax. The open house will provide the public with the opportunity to get information, talk to Drinking Water Protection Program team members and sign up for the committee.

The Drinking Water Protection Program is a voluntary program designed to assist communities in protecting their drinking water sources. The campaign seeks to involve private citizens, community groups, water systems, local government officials, businesses and industry in the protection of the parish's waters. The meeting will address the goals of the program and how people can participate. Clean water is essential for good health and DEQ's Drinking Water Protection team will share protection and conservation tips that residents can use in their homes and businesses. DEQ is encouraging all residents in Grant Parish to attend the community meeting or the open house and to take an active role in ensuring clean drinking water for the future.

DEQ is seeking volunteers to serve on committees to work with the community in creating a sustainable drinking water protection program. For more information contact drinking water team members Micaela Marchand Coner or Jesse Means at (225) 219-3510 and visit the DEQ web page at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/aeps.